

**School Logo
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University

A History of Modern Philosophy

Programme – Spring Semester 2025

Course Information

Course Duration: 45 hours (15 weeks)

Credit Hours: 45 hours

Meetings: Once a week

Location: Jindal Global University, Sonepat

Prerequisites: No pre-requisites

Equivalent Courses:

Exclusive Courses:

Instructor Information

Instructor: R. Krishnaswamy

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1. Course Description

In this course, we will be looking at the multiple layers through which the modern subjective experience has been constituted epistemologically, politically and socially. Throughout the course we will touch upon three western philosophical traditions that have been central towards instituting the categories of political thought and engagement.

The first tradition we will look at will be that of Kantian rationality. We will review how the epistemological self came to take centre stage in debates as to questions of truth, validity and morality. The epistemologies of the self and the moral rules of society came to be intertwined in peculiar ways after Kant.

The second tradition has privileged the discursive conditions which constitute individual agency. Whether the discursive factors have been interpreted as history (Hegel) or Dasein (Heidegger) or language (Derrida) or power (Foucault), a central thought that runs through this tradition is the idea that any rules of engagement will have to be constituted through a web of intersubjective engagement which in one form or the other acts as the condition for the possibility of meaningful behaviour.

The third tradition is phenomenological. Phenomenology starts with the lived-experience of a collective as the primary datum of social and political analysis. Phenomenology opens up the possibility of non-discursive factors that can normatively motivate human behaviour, whether it is through exploring the parsed and unparsed modalities of the body or through other certain phenomenological constants (like the idea of the Other in Levinas). The social and political implications of such a tradition has been captured by aspects of feminist ethics (Butler, Carol Gilligan), Levinasian/deconstructionist ethics (Levinas, Critchley, Derrida) or postmodern ethics (Lyotard)

Modules

1. The political subject
2. The discursive subject
3. The phenomenological subject

2. Course Intended Learning Objectives(Aim)

Course Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Activities	Assessments/ Activities
The student is expected to learn how to be able to understand and present ideas and concepts	Make the students present in front of the class. Have them participate in class discussions	Class presentations

Make them read texts critically and make them write in a coherent and objective way their ideas and arguments	Class written assignments/mid-term exams	Assignments/exams
<i>Add more lines as needed</i>		

3. Scheme of Evaluation and Grading

Evaluation breakup

Internal breakup: Presentation 20 marks, Participation 10 marks, Mid-term exam 20,

Components

External breakup – Final exam/assignment – 50 marks

Grade Definition

O (80% and Above) [8.0]	Outstanding	Exceptional knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and extraordinary critical and analytical ability
A+ (75%-79%) [7.5]	Excellent	Sound knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and critical and analytical ability
A (70%-74%) [7.0]	Very Good	Sound knowledge of the subject matter, excellent organizational capacity, ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles, critically analyse existing materials and originality in thinking and presentation
(65%-69%) [6.0]	Good	Good understanding of the subject matter, ability to identify issues and provide balanced solutions to problems and good critical and analytical skills
B+ (60%-64%) [5.0]	Fair	Average understanding of the subject matter, limited ability to identify issues and provide solutions to problems and reasonable critical and analytical skills. Average understanding of the subject matter, limited ability to identify issues and provide solutions to problems and reasonable critical and analytical skills
B (55%-59%) [4.0]	Acceptable	Adequate knowledge of the subject matter to go to the next level of study and reasonable critical and analytical skills

B- (50%-54%) [3.0]	Marginal	Limited knowledge of the subject matter and irrelevant use of materials and, poor critical and analytical skills
F (50% or Below)	Fail	Poor comprehension of the subject matter; poor critical and analytical skills and marginal use of the relevant materials. Will require repeating the course

4. Academic Integrity

Academic Honesty, Cheating, and Plagiarism.

In line with JGU policy, JSLH operates a zero tolerance approach to Plagiarism. The unacknowledged use of material by others within your work is a violation of academic integrity and all reported cases will be investigated before potential disciplinary action. Instructors will address methods of citation and presentation within written work.

Participation/Attendance Policy

JSLH conducts all classes on a foundation of professionalism. It is expected that students should be present in class and seated within five minutes of the class start time. Students arriving after a ten minute window from the designated start time will be refused entry/attendance. Please show courtesy to your instructors and co-learners by observing punctuality. Please also note that the seminar room is a place for free expression and critical thinking and this comes with a responsibility on the part of students to respect opinions expressed and actively participate in the work of the classroom discussion.

Use of phone/ texting/ laptop

5. Keyword Syllabus

6. Course Material

Text books

Reference books

Journals / Business Magazines

Web Sources

7. Session Plan

Session (with Date)	General Topic	Readings	Approach/Pedagogy
Week 1	Kantian Rationality	Kant, 135-141 (“What is Enlightenment?”)	
Week 2	Kant and the Self	Kant, 3-6; 24-34 (<i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>)	

		, selections from Preface and Introduction	
Week 3	Kant and the Self (contd)	Kant, 43-59 (<i>Prolegomena to any Future Metaphysics (selections)</i>)	
Week 4	Rational Moral Rules	Kant, 117-132 (“Idea for a Universal History with Cosmopolitan Intent”)	
Week 5	Rational Moral Rules (contd)	Korsgaard, Christine, M. “Introduction,” in Immanuel Kant, <i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> (ed. Mary Gregor; CUP, 1997)	
Week 6	Holism	Pinkard, Terry, <i>German Philosophy</i> , 121-145	
Week 7	Narrativity and the Self	Hayden White, <i>The Content of the Form; Houses of History</i> , chap. 8, The Question of Narrative	
Week 8	Philosophy of History	Danto, Arthur C. <i>Narration and knowledge</i> . New York: Columbia University	

		Press, 1985 (selections)	
Week 9	Heidegger's Dasein	<p>Heidegger's Being and Time (selections)</p> <p>Translator's intro § 1 ("The Question of Being") Being and Time: Introduction (§§ 1-7) W 3/19</p> <p>Translator's intro §2 ("Human Being (Dasein) as Being-in-the-world") Being and Time: §§ 9, 12, 14-16, 18</p>	
Week 10	Social Conditions of Knowledge	<p>Berger, Peter, and Thomas Luckmann. The social construction of reality: A treatise in the sociology of knowledge. New York: Anchor Books, 1990. Originally published 1966 (selections)</p>	
Week 11	Hermeneutics and Phenomenology	<p>Davey, Nicholas, "Lived experience: Erlebnis and Erfahrung" Blackwell Companion to Hermeneutics, 326-332, ed. Niall Keane</p>	
Week 12	Phenomenology and the Body	<p>Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Phenomenology of Perception, "The Body as Expression and Speech"</p>	
Week 13	The Bodily Experience	<p>Elaine Scarry, The Body in Pain: The Making and Unmaking of the World, Ch. 1.</p>	
Week 14	Presentations		

Week 15	Presentations		